(c) As a short-term measure the shortfall is proposed to be covered by imports. By way of long-term solution to the problem additional capacities are being established for the manufacture of these products.

Production of vital drugs

126. SHRI CHANDRIKA PRASAD TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have initiated steps for increasing production of vital drugs needed for mass consumption; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) The measures for rationalisation, quality control and growth of drugs and pharmaceuticals industry announced recently by the Government are aimed at increasing indigenous production of bulk drugs especially essential drugs needed for mass consumption. Copies of the documents detailing these measures are available in the Parliament Library.

Export of drugs

127. SHRI CHANDRIKA PRASAD TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently taken steps to boost the export of drugs; and

(b) if so, what are the details regarding the estimated quantity of drugs likely to be exported in the near future and the foreign exchange earnings therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The following incentives have been offered by the Government to boost export of drugs and formulations:

(i) Advance licences under the duty exemption scheme and import licences are issued to various exporters against definite export orders.

(ii) In order to provide stability for the growth of exports, a scheme has been introduced for the registration of contracts.

(iii) Special provision have been made for 100% export oriented units.

(iv) A scheme has been introduced to provide duty free import of raw materials against REP licences issued on exports of specified products. The scheme is applicable to all registered exporters exporting the product specified. REP licences issued under the scheme are freely transferable like other REP licences.

(v) A producer exporter gets additional facility provided for under Import-Export Policy.

(vi) Rationalisation of duty structure for bulk drugs vis-a-vis intermediates.

(vii) Supply of raw materials at reasonable prices for export production.

(viii) Inclusion of bulk drugs under EXIM bank commodity credit scheme.

(ix) With a view to boosting exports, an Export Promotion Group has been constituted.

(b) An export plan for 15 years have been drawn up in respect of drugs, pharmaceuticals & fine chemicals. Details of this plan is given

in Annexure (*See* Appendix CXLIII, Annexure No. 22]

National Drugs and Pharmaceutical Authority

128. SHRI CHANDRIKA PRASAD TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state by when the proposed National Drugs and Pharmaceutical Authority is likely to be established and in what way this authority would step up production of drugs both for use in the domestic market and for exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): The time frame for setting up of the National Drugs and Pharmaceutical Authority is one year. The proposed Authority would co-ordinate matters relating to development of the drugs and pharmaceutical industry in the country.

Gas based Power Station in Gujarat

129. SHRI VITHAL BHAI MOTIRAM PATEL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Gujarat and the Gujarat Electricity Board have sent a proposal to set up a gas based power station in Gujarat; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Central Government to the above proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) and (b) The Gujarat Electricity Board have submitted four proposals for setting up gas-based power stations which could be considered further after their techno-economic viability has been established and all necessary inputs, including availability of gas, have been tied up.

Supply of Coal to Power Stations

130. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is short supply of coal to the coal based power plants in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what steps are being taken to improve the situation;

(c) what is the total number of coal based power plants in the country, Statewise, and what is the minimum requirement of coal of each of the power plants; and

(d) whether any agreement has been made with some foreign countries for the import of coal for these power plants and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) and (b) The Coal supplies to the power stations in the country have been generally satisfactory. A few power stations such as Parlia and Raichur have, however, been facing difficulties in getting the required quantity of coal from Singareni Collieries Co. Ltd., and action has been taken to move coal from other sources to build stocks at these power stations also.

(c) There are 57 major coal-based power stations in operation. The coal requirement of these power stations is given in the Statement. (*See* below)

(d) There is no agreement for the import of coal for these power plants.